

## **Weekly Video Update, January 18, 2022**

### **Karen Connolly, Chair Select Board**

Select Board meeting is tonight via Zoom at 6:30 PM. Agenda is posted on the town website <https://www.scituatema.gov/> which will include the Zoom link instructions.

### **Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator**

1. The total number of Covid cases for this past week (not including yesterday) according to our MAVEN data was 110, up from 104. This number does not include home testing that was reported to the BOH or school department by parents or individuals. Only tests done by a doctor's office or registered testing site make it into MAVEN. The total number of cases reported to the BOH, including home tests over the last two weeks was 494. We have a positivity rating over the last 14 days at 20.66%, up from the 14.48% of last week. Plymouth County is at 24.13% up from 17.41% of last week. State wide the positivity rate yesterday for the past 7 days was 19.90% down from the previous week of 23.02%. Again, these numbers do not include home tests not reported to the state. We have consistently stated that the number to pay attention to is not the case totals, but the percent positive. This is a more indicative number on where the virus is going. As you can see, the numbers are mixed, with state positivity rates down and Town and county numbers continuing to rise. One positive note is that the data from the MWRA measuring Covid in waste water has dropped dramatically since the early January, down 55% in the waste from south of Boston and 65% for waste from the north. This measure has been seen as a predictor as to where the virus is going over the next several weeks, so hopefully is a sign that the Omicron surge is peaking and will start to decline.

At this point, being vaccinated is a much better defense then not being vaccinated, so please, if you have not yet gotten vaccinated and can receive the vaccine, we urge you to do so. Vaccinations and booster are widely available. Go to [mass.gov](https://mass.gov) for details. The Marshfield Fairgrounds site was taking appointments and drive-ups for boosters. Individuals 18 and over are eligible for a Moderna Booster and 11 and over for a Pfizer booster. You are eligible for a booster 5 months after getting your second Pfizer and 6 months after your Moderna shot and 2 months after a J&J shot.

Governor Baker issued new guidance in response to the Omicron variant and rising COVID numbers. The Department of Public Health now advises that all residents, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask or face covering when indoors (and not in your own home). With the surging number of cases, it is recommended that you wear a mask when you are indoors in a public space for your protection and the protection of others. The DPH particularly urges this recommendation if you have a weakened immune system, or if you are at increased risk for severe disease because of your age or an underlying medical condition, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

A question has been asked about masks mandates in Scituate or in Scituate Town buildings. The Select Board can impose a mask requirement for town buildings, just as the school committee has for school buildings. The BOH can mandate masks town wide under the existing public health emergency. The Town has consistently, throughout the pandemic, followed the guidance provided by the state for mandates and we will continue to do. Scituate has a high vaccination rate at this point and the state has not imposed a mask mandate for indoor uses. They have posted a recommendation that people mask up indoors regardless of vaccination status and we have posted that on all town buildings.

2. Last week, on 1/13, the town auctioned off a property at 1 Tilden Road in Minot. This was previously discussed at a Board meeting. The house was taken by the Town for tax title, had no septic system and was in serious disrepair. The town accepted a bid of \$200,000 for the property. These funds will go to the general fund and eventually end in free cash when we close the books at the end of the fiscal year.
3. Widows Walk project is on-going, floors are being installed and the kitchen is in. Today is the deadline for the bid for operation of the clubhouse and food service. Mr. Boudreau will update the Board at this evening's Select Board Meeting. We are hopeful we will get a good operator in there for the spring season. Widows Walk is open for walking and walking your dog. We ask that you please have your dogs on a leash at all times, avoid walking over any greens or sand traps and most importantly, pick up after your dog.

### **Bill Burkhead, Superintendent of Schools**

During the week of February 28, 2022, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of Public- School Monitoring (PSM) will be conducting a tiered focused monitoring review of the SPS school district.

Office of Language Acquisition will conduct a review on March 11, 2022 which is done every years to monitor compliance with federal and state English learner education laws and regulations.

Office of Public- School Monitoring visits each district and charter schools every 3 years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations.

There is a press release in Thursday thoughts, or on the school website at <https://scituate.k12.ma.us/> and will also be in the Scituate Mariner. You may also contact Dr. Michelle Boebert, Special Ed Director at [mboebert@scit.org](mailto:mboebert@scit.org).

Tonight (1/18), there is a kindergarten information meeting at 6:00 pm via zoom. The details are on the website <https://scituate.k12.ma.us/>. Online registration begins Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 9 AM. For any questions, please reach out to Andrea Cochran at [acochran@scit.org](mailto:acochran@scit.org).

## **Health and Wellness Update**

Total cases for the school district is 187, up slightly from last week at 174. Breakdown is as follows:

District staff	2
Cushing	26
Gates	45
Hatherly	25
Jenkins	13
High School	44
Wampanatuck	32

Martin Luther King Day was yesterday and the school hosted their inaugural Dr. King celebration via zoom with over 200 attendees. He thanked Jamel Adams, DEI Director and all the great people who helped organize this event. The event will be posted to the website for those who were unable to attend.

Karen Connolly reminded everyone that tonight there is a Select Board meeting and will include a discussion about truck traffic in the West End with the DPW Director and Police Chief. Also, we will have a discussion on various water conservation measures from our Water Resource Committee.